

Donald Leon Judy Deployment Report — May 1944 - Jan. 1946

Sailor Age: 19 - 21

* A quick preface for reference: I added some notes in red into the entries either to clarify what Grandpa is talking about or to annotate a word that was illegible. All of the entries are typed exactly as they were written, including spelling errors and missing words. Enjoy!

1944

May 14,

The U.S.S. LST-911 was put into commission.

May 17,

Left Boston for Norfolk, anchored in harbor for one night. Left next morning for Chesapeake on training cruise.

May 29,

Returned from cruise, went to Norfolk ship yards for minor repairs.

June 7,

Left Norfolk for New York City to load L.C.T. [Landing Craft, Tank] craft. This is our last U.S. port and chance for good liberty [shore leave].

June 25,

Left New York City and the U.S.A. for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

July 2,

Arrived at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, stayed there for the night.

July 3,

Left Cuba for our next port which is Panama Canal.

July 7,

Arrived at Panama, the town of Colon which is a very good liberty town.

July 9,

Left Panama for Bora Bora which looks very good after three weeks underway.

July 30,

Arrived at Bora Bora, there was a Sea Bee base and natives were fairly civilized. There was no [illegible] allowed in there. Had liberty the same day we arrived.

July 31,

Left Bora Bora for Noumea, New Caledonia.

August 13,

Arrived at New Caledonia, took on food supplies. The scenery is beautiful, it is also noted for leper colony.

August 15,

Left New Caledonia for Manus in the Admiralty Islands. We have traveled this far without seeing anything of the Japs.

August 26,

Left Manus for Hollandia, New Guinea. We were told that now we are in the forward area.

August 31,

Arrived at Hollandia, our supposed forward area, but seen nothing.

Sept. 13,

Left our operating base in Hollandia for Maffin Bay, New Guinea to pick up equipment and troops.

Sept. 19,

Made our first invasion on Morotai near Halmahera. Went in on D+4, no opposition at all. Left Morotai for Hollandia same day.

Sept. 24,

Arrived back at our base suspected [not sure what word he was going for here, perhaps "suspected", but that is what is written] an attack by submarine in the early morning of the 23rd.

Sept. 25,

Beached ship and took on equipment and troops. We carried part of the 8th air squadron with their equipment.

Sept. 26,

Again left base for Morotai, still same, no action.

Oct. 1,

Arrived at Morotai and anchored. Got underway again and beached to unload. Loaded up again with a platoon of troops for Sansapor, New Guinea.

Oct. 6,

Arrived at Sansapor, unloaded and left same night for Hollandia.

Oct. 8,

Arrived safe and very sound back to our base.

Oct. 16,

Loaded up with troops and equipment. Our destination this time is Leyte in the Philippines. The 6th longest in the Philippine Islands group convoy is very large: 2 aircraft carriers, 8 destroyers, 15 liberty ships, 8 L.C.I. [Landing Craft, Infantry], and 35 L.S.T. [Landing Ship, Tank] and 19 E's [?] for escort.

Oct. 18,

Report from escorts that fighter plane shot down Jap observation plane, twenty miles from our convoy. The Japs know we are coming, so does Tokyo Rose [female English-speaking radio broadcasters of Japanese propaganda meant to demoralize allied troops, including, specifically, Iva Toguri].

Oct. 22,

Arrived at Leyte, we traveled through mine fields, made safe landing, a few LST's were hit. After landing, a truck and its driver were blown up by an unexpected bomb. US dive bomber planes were attacking Japs' positions a short distance from us at 1600. Retracted from beach, proceeded back to Hollandia.

Oct. 28,

Arrived at Hollandia again. The place surely did look good after being away for 13 days.

Nov. 7,

Left Maffin Bay for Leyte again. Met our main convoy outside of bay and proceeded to destination.

Nov. 13,

Arrived at Leyte. Jap planes came over and bombed five liberty ships at 1700. When we were leaving, Jap planes came in again, there were eight this time and we shot down two planes on our way out of the harbor. One plane was shot down at the bow and the other one was shot down at the stern of our ship.

Nov. 19,

Got back from Leyte. Few sub alerts was all we were bothered with on our return trip.

Nov. 27,

Still at Hollandia. Today Aussies generals came aboard to inspect our ship. Their opinion was that this a very fine ship.

Nov. 28,

Again we are loaded down with troops and equipment. This is the largest amount of troops we ever carried. There is 550 besides ships company. There is a small convoy but more may join us later.

Nov. 29,

Left Hollandia for Leyte and we have a funny feeling that this convoy isn't going to get through as well as before.

Dec. 5,

Somewhere at sea near Mindanao, our convoy was attacked by torpedo planes and Jap dive bombers. One liberty ship was torpedoed and another liberty ship hit in the bow of the ship by suicide crash diver on ship. Another almost was hit, plane exploded in mid air. The torpedo planes made three attacks trying to sink more of our ships.

Dec. 6,

Finally arrived at Leyte. The place has changed considerably. Jap planes still raid the place every day.

Dec. 7,

The enemy kept us busy today with raids. No damage done on shipping. One P38 plane barely landed in water near our ship. It sunk within one minute, pilot was rescued by our small boat.

Dec. 10,

Beached ship early in the morning, loaded supplies and with mechanized equipment.

Dec. 12,

Left Leyte in a very large convoy, plenty of escort ships and plane coverage given us. Our destination is Mindoro, seventh largest island in the Philippine group.

Dec. 13,

Only one day out from Leyte our convoy is attacked by Jap dive bombers and bomber planes. Two Jap planes shot down by P38 fighters, one shot down by a destroyer. One Jap plane sneaked in and crash dived on the cruiser, Nashville, doing lots of damage. It had to go back to Leyte.

Dec. 15,

Arrived at Mindoro. Our destroyer sank a Jap fighter and a Jap destroyer. Our ships were attacked by dive bombers during the day. Two LST's were lost in the action: The LST 472 and 738. One was bombed and the other crash dived into, both were a total loss. Bombs were dropped all around us during the day. This is D Day on Mindoro with very little resistance. Jap barge loaded with Japs were also sunk. The barrage put up by our troops' force was terrific. The air coverage was very good, the enemy was taken by surprise.

Dec. 17,

Still out at sea headed back for Leyte. A few Jap planes came over and two were shot down by our escorts during the night. Jap bombers tried to attack us but were intercepted by our night fighters.

Dec. 19,

Left for Mindoro again, this time it's a small convoy. We have seen plenty of action so far.

Dec. 21,

Standing at GQ ["general quarters": alarm for battle stations] all day. A few planes came in early part of the day. Finally at 1700, reports came through that 23 Jap planes were headed our way. Eight P38's intercepted enemy planes but their planes managed to get through to our convoy. Three enemy planes crash dived on two LST's and a liberty ship. The LST 460 and the 749 were a total loss. We can thank God that we had those P38's or else we would have been shark food by now. As it was, there are plenty of casualties from both ships. One of the fellows in our crew cracked up and went out of his mind.

Dec. 22,

Arrived at Mindoro after an all night of enemy planes over head. Our DD's [destroyers] and cruiser did a very good job of holding off the enemy. We beached, unloaded and then took on casualties from the 460 and a few enemy boys. Some of them fellows are burned pretty bad.

Dec. 24,

Plenty of air coverage on the return trip. A lot of GQ's sounded but all turned out to be friendly planes. We also were supposed to get in port some time tonight around 2100. Leyte looks very good after all the hell we went through the last few days. This is Christmas day and a very sad day for all of the crew.

Dec. 25,

Back at Leyte again although Jap planes still make quite a few raids here at Leyte but it is still much better here than at Mindoro. One feels more at ease here. Christmas is just like any other day. It's hot as hell during the day but cool at night. The captain broke down and gave us a half day holiday, very nice of him.

Dec. 29,

Still at anchor in Leyte. Everything is a little better here now but we still have a few air attacks but I managed to get a little rest.

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Jan. 3,

Left Leyte for destination unknown. This is another invasion and it promises to be on a large scale, in fact larger than anything we have seen out here as yet.

Jan. 9,

Arrived at Lingayen Gulf. Japs tried several times to stop us but were unsuccessful. Our cruisers, destroyers, and battleships really bombarded the place. Our ship was only a short distance from the [illegible] were terrific [illegible] Jap planes came in but were turned back, some were shot down.

Jan. 11,

We were preparing to beach for the seventh time. Jap planes came over and let two bombs go at our ship but missed us by a small hair. Left sometime at night for Leyte after unloaded.

Jan. 12,

Near Manila, our small convoy was attacked by four Jap planes. Several near misses by crash divers. Our own force again saved the day for us again. Several of our boys cracked up.

Jan. 14,

Plenty of our planes protecting us but one Jap plane came in for a crash dive and got the LST 700. Three casualties buried, was held at sea for one from our ship. This happened near Manila.

Jan. 18,

Finally arrived back at Leyte after a very long slow down out and nerve racking trip. Even Leyte looks good after what we have been through.

Jan. 22,

We are again loaded with troops and their equipment. Our destination again is Lingayen Gulf.

Jan. 29,

Today we had a few air attacks during the early hours of the morning, nothing special did happen.

Feb. 1,

Left Lingayen Gulf for Leyte with 150 casualties aboard. Some of the boys are shot up pretty bad.

Feb. 2,

One of the army boys died during the night. Burial was held from aboard our ship at sea near Bataan. One can see the effects of war by looking at some these casualties.

Feb. 5,

Arrived back at Leyte. Everything looks very good here. It sure is nice to be back to a place of peace and quiet.

Feb. 14,

Got a shock of a jolt today. Our ship has changed command. Our old skipper left to take charge of the LST 992 which has been messed up in commander and crew.

Feb. 16,

At 1500 left Leyte for Biak, New Guinea. Who said we wouldn't see that place again?

Feb. 21,

After a rather rough sailing and being tossed around for four days, we arrived safely at Biak, New Guinea late this evening. Due to submarine nets at entrance, we cannot enter until morning when they will be down or aside to allow us to enter harbor. The scenery is very good here and there is quite a few WAC's [\[Women's Army Corps\]](#) here.

Feb. 22,

Woke up this morning to find we were nowhere near Biak. During the night while I was on watcher orders were changed to report to Sansapor in the afternoon. Our orders are changed again, now we are headed for Morotai.

Feb. 24,

After our nice cruise we have taken, we finally arrived at our destination which is Morotai. We immediately beached, we are now loading up supplies for the Seabees. Our destination isn't known as yet.

Feb. 26,

We still are at Morotai, we are now loading with equipment and 250 Seabees. Went ashore also and saw the Seabee base here which is very nice I think. I also saw a show here which is very good.

Feb. 28,

We are now leaving Morotai. Our stay here was enjoyed by all. Our next stop is to report to Leyte.

March 3,

We didn't go to Leyte as reported but instead went back to Biak. Everything is so nice and calm and peaceful here. Did not get a chance to go ashore.

March 4,

Late in afternoon we left Biak. Five days from now we should be in Leyte if nothing happens.

March 8,

We are somewhere at sea near Mindanao. Our destination is Mindanao not Leyte as was at first.

March 12,

Our orders were changed again this afternoon. We arrived at Palawan in the Philippine Islands. All is quiet here and the Japs don't even pay us a visit.

March 13,

This is surely a nice island, has a good view of it from the ship. The houses here are built of wood. The Japs had a concentration camp here with 200 American prisoners. They killed them all by pouring gasoline on them in confined quarters. Those who escaped from the fire were bayoneted by the Japs. Their bodies were left to rot where they layed.

March 16,

Left Palawan for Leyte, no action seen while at this island. We have 26 casualties, all soldiers.

March 18,

Arrived back at Leyte late this evening. This is the longest time we ever took for any one run: one month and two days.

March 25,

Left Leyte for the island of Biak, New Guinea. It should take us about four or five days.

March 30,

Arrived at Biak, New Guinea this evening. The trip was plenty rough at times, no action was seen while underway.

April 4,

Once again, we are loaded with troops and their equipment. This is Easter Day here.

April 6,

Arrived at Morotai safe and sound. We had smooth sailing all the way. We'll be very glad to get rid of this load of negroes.

April 8,

We are still at Morotai and all is well. This morning I attended church service and took holy communion at this Seabee base. The service was impressive, the attendance was largely sailors from ships in the harbor.

April 9,

Left Morotai for Sansapor, New Guinea where troops and their equipment will be loaded.

April 11,

Arrived at Sansapor and beached as soon as we arrived.

April 14,

Left Sansapor for southern part of Mindanao in the Philippines. There are 550 troops aboard, mostly infantry and their equipment. Arrived there on D+5.

April 22,

Arrived at southern Mindanao. The place is called [illegible]. The fellows had lots of fun going up into the hills for stalks of bananas and look the place over. What was here is no more. Our planes blasted hell out of this place on D-Day, only three Japs were killed here. The others, around 30,000, beat it back up in the hills.

April 24,

Left [illegible], Mindanao for our base at Morotai. We should arrive in very shortly, the run isn't very long.

April 26,

Arrived back at Morotai again late this evening. No action seen while on this trip. Many more ships are at anchor here than was when we had left for Mindanao. This will be base operating in the future.

May 2,

We are still at Morotai, picked up water and fuel, now are at anchor awaiting further orders.

May 3,

Left Morotai for Milne Bay, New Guinea. We are going away from the scenes of war for several weeks. We may even see Australia. I hope all the boys are getting their blues and whites ready just in case we do go.

May 10,

Our first stop is Saidor, New Guinea. Loaded up with most of the equipment left before the yanks evacuate to the Aussie troops. This is really [illegible] territory, more frequent rains than Morotai.

May 11,

Left Saidor for an all night run to our next stop which is Finschhafen.

May 12,

Arrived at Finschhafen this morning. We are now unloaded and laying at anchor ready to start on our next run. Seen a Red Cross mobile unit handing our donuts and coffee to some of the army boys. This is the second time I've seen white women in twelve months.

May 15,

Left Finschhafen for Australia at 1700. While at Finschhafen nothing much was seen. The base here is gradually evacuating to Aussies also. So now on to Australia and civilization.

May 19,

Arrived at Cairns, Australia late this evening. Anchored outside of harbor until morning.

May 21,

Made our first liberty in a civilized port, the first civilian people seen in eleven months. The town is about the size of Albin. There is quite a few women here but not enough for all the sailors and soldiers that are here. There is about 30 LST's in port at this time.

May 24,

Made second liberty here at Cairns. Like the first time, did plenty of walking around then later attended a movie. There isn't much else to be done. The weather is much cooler than at Morotai.

May 27,

Left Cairns, Australia. Had lots of fun while we were here. We are loaded with 350 Aussie troops.

June 1,

We are now anchored in the approaches to the China straits. Will go through these straits in the morning.

June 2,

Went through China straits and pulled into Milne Bay at 1130 this morning. We are going to pick up some supplies here.

June 3,

Left Milne Bay at 1000 and are now following the New Guinea coast line on way to Morotai. Next Sunday we should be at our destination.

June 8,

Late this afternoon we arrived at Biak, New Guinea. This is an unscheduled stop we did not expect to make. A few of the ships in our group had mechanical difficulties.

June 9,

Left Biak at 1630today. More LST's and our escort were picked up. I'll be glad when we get back so we can get some mail.

June 12,

Arrived at Morotai. We finally finished our trip from Australia. We beached late this evening and discharged our cargo.

June 18,

While laying at anchor late this evening, the fire and flushing pumps blew a gasket out and the main engine room was flooded. We was suppose to beach and load up with troops and their equipment. We was suppose to make D-Day on Borneo but will not be able to go. The LST 938 is taking our place.

June 24,

Everything is fixed up again. We are now loading up with men and their supplies to make another run. All Aussie troops coming aboard.

June 28,

Left Morotai for Balikpapan, Borneo. 450 Aussie troops and their equipment are on aboard.

July 3,

Arrived at Balikpapan, Borneo early this morning. We expected to be attacked by the Japs air force during our trip and after our arrival here but no attacks came for which we are very happy.

July 4,

The fighting on land continues. With a pair of field glasses one can see the fighting going on. The beaches are being shelled by cruisers and destroyers. There is plenty of mortar fire going on. The Japs air force must be knocked out of the air, still no raids.

July 5,

Left Balikpapan, Borneo at 1800 today. The unloading of supplies and men were done by LCT's. Beaching facilities were bad. A Jap mortar shell hit an LST inflicting small damage and killing two Aussie soldiers.

July 6,

We are well on our way back to our base at Morotai. We are now passing the Celebes Island which is still held by the Japs.

July 9,

Arrived back at Morotai. The trip was smooth and no action seen from Jap air force.

July 13,

At 1500 this afternoon we left Morotai for another run into Balikpapan, Borneo. 150 Aussie troops and their equipment aboard.

July 16,

Arrived at Balikpapan, Borneo at 1800 today. Anchored about three miles from shore.

July 17,

Early this morning we got underway and came in closer to the beach at 1600. We beached ship and proceeded to unload. We are now unloaded but will stay on beach all night then load up with equipment for a run into Manila, Philippines Island. At last we will see what Manila looks like.

July 19,

Still at Balikpapan. While we were beached we took on a load of amphibious tractors and will take them back with us. This place is a great oil producer. Was well fortified with heavy guns. The heavy bombardment from the air force and the navy shelling pushed the Japs up into the hill and island.

July 21,

At 1500 this afternoon we left Balikpapan, Borneo for Manila. Just where we will go upon leaving their isn't any one's guess. At last Manila will be seen even if it's a long time after the invasion took place.

July 27,

Arrived at Manila at 1300 this afternoon. We anchored in Manila Bay until 1715 then proceeded to the beach to unload. Many Jap ships are sunk around the harbor here. After we unloaded fifty percent of the crew was given liberty to the city itself. Everywhere one looks he sees devastated areas and beautiful large buildings completely bombed out. What was once a beautiful city is now in a very much battered and torn up place. As usual the Japs did nothing to better the city but instead caused more ruins.

July 28,

Left Manila at 1300 today, our destination is Leyte. At last I have seen a small part of Manila, only we did not stay very long or could have seen more of it.

July 31,

Arrived at Leyte, the time of arrival was at 1000. From the ship the view is the same as before only less ships are now in the harbor. Seen two large battleships here otherwise everything else looks the same.

August 1,

Still at Leyte, some of our boys had liberty here. One of the fellows got mixed up with four negroes, he now is in the hospital in serious condition.

August 2,

At 1730 this afternoon we entered floating dry dock here at Leyte. The purpose is for scraping bottom of ship and paint it and to have new screws and stern bearings put on shafts.

August 4,

Came out of dry dock at 1700 and proceeded to tanker to refuel and take on lube oil. Pulled away from tanker and anchored at 2000. We got 7 new men today, they are all seamen, came right from the states.

August 10,

We are now at the island of Samoa which is a navy supply base, we are going to pick up supplies here. In the morning we will proceed to water hole to fill up with fresh water. We just got the news cast over the radio that the Japanese would surrender under all conditions but an official word came from the United States government.

August 14,

Confirmation from the United States that they had received word of the surrender of Japan. This is the happiest birthday I ever had in my life.

August 15,

Official statement that Japan has surrendered unconditionally to the allies. Truman issued orders for Japan to cease hostilities and our forces to cease firing. We are again at peace with the world.

August 16,

Left Leyte for the little island of Morotai. There isn't as many ships here as there was when we were here before.

August 19,

Arrived at Morotai this afternoon at 1400 and anchored out in harbor.

August 25,

We got underway this afternoon and beached ship. We are now loading up with the 13th air force and their equipment. Our destination is Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands. We were suppose to take them to Okinawa but our orders have changed since the war ended.

August 27,

Left Morotai this morning at 0900 for Subic Bay. There is about ten LST's in the convoy.

Sept. 3,

Arrived at Subic Bay this morning at 0800 and anchored in harbor. Got underway at 1100 and beached ship to unload equipment.

Sept. 7,

Pulled off rom beach late this evening and anchor out in bay.

Sept. 8,

Got underway this morning and moored along side of tanker to take on fuel oil. Anchor in afternoon LST 583 came along side to get fuel oil from us.

Sept. 9,

Got underway at 1100 to go to water hole and fill up with fresh water.

Sept. 13,

Left Subic Bay early this morning at 0600 for Batangas witch is about ninety miles from Subic Bay, one fifty miles from Manila. We should get there sometime this evening.

Sept. 16,

Got underway and beached ship this afternoon to load up with troops and equipment.

Sept. 18,

Retracted from beach this morning and anchor out in harbor.

Sept. 20,

Left Batangas early this morning for Yokohama, Japan. There is about 45 LST's in the convoy. We got word that all ships will run with their running lights on at night. it really is pretty at night with all the ships' lights on.

Sept. 29,

Finally arrived at Yokohama after a very rough trip. Almost al the buildings we can see from our ship has been bombed and burned down.

Sept. 30,

Got my first liberty at Yokohama. There isn't much to see here, there has been lots of bombing done by our air force, just about every other building has been bombed.

Oct. 1,

Left Yokohama at 0600 this morning for Sendai, Japan. It's about 500 miles by sea and about 200 miles by land.

Oct. 3,

Arrived at Sendai at 1200 and anchored out in harbor. Got underway late this evening and moored along side of LST's on beach. We got word that there is a typhoon coming this way with hundred and forty five mile hour wind. So we got orders to move in land as far as we can between two islands.

Oct. 6,

We got underway late this evening to beach ship and load up with troops and their equipment.

Oct. 9,

We are now loaded up again with troops and their equipment. Retracted from beach early this morning and anchored out in harbor. We are going some place on the other side of Japan.

Oct. 12,

Left Sendai this afternoon for Niigata, Japan. This place is between Manchuria and Japan.

Oct. 15,

Arrived at Niigata, Japan late this evening, beached ship as soon as we arrived.

Oct. 16,

Retracted from beach early this morning and anchored out in harbor.

Oct. 17,

Left Niigata this morning at 1000, our destination this time is to report back to Yokohama.

Oct. 21,

Arrived at Yokohama this morning and anchored out in harbor.

Oct. 23,

Got underway early this morning to go to water hole and fill up with fresh water.

Oct. 24,

Left water hole at 0700 and anchor in harbor. Got underway again at 0900, this time our destination is somewhere in the Philippines.

Nov. 1,

Arrived at Subic Bay, Philippines at 1200 and anchor out in harbor.

Nov. 4,

Got underway early this morning to pick up fuel oil and fresh water.

Nov. 5,

Left Subic Bay this evening at 1700 for Lingayen Gulf to load up with troops and their equipment.

Nov. 6,

Arrived at Lingayen Gulf at 1200 noon and beached ship in the afternoon.

Nov. 8,

Retracted from beach and anchored out in harbor. We are now loaded up with troops and equipment.

Nov. 11,

Left Lingayen Gulf at 0400 this morning for some place in Japan.

Nov. 19,

Arrived at Yokohama, Japan this afternoon at 1500 and anchored out in harbor.

Nov. 21,

Got underway this morning at 1100 to beach ship and unload equipment.

Nov. 22,

Retracted from beach and anchored in harbor at 0700 this morning.

Nov. 25,

Left Yokohama for Yokosuka. Arrived at Yokosuka this afternoon and anchored in harbor.

Dec. 6,

Left Yokosuka this afternoon for Yokohama. Arrived at Yokohama the same day.

Dec. 10,

Left Yokohama early this morning for Niigata.

Dec. 14,

Arrived at Niigata late this evening and anchored in harbor.

Dec. 16,

Got underway this morning and beached to load up with troops and their equipment.

Dec. 21,

Left Niigata at 0600 this morning for Yokohama.

Dec. 25,

Arrived at Yokohama late this evening and anchored out in harbor.

Dec. 27,

Got underway this morning and moored along side of LST 218 to take on supplies and repairs that we can use. They are decommission LST 218 out here and give it to the Japs. Got underway again this afternoon and beached ship to unload.

Dec. 28,

Pulled off from beach this morning and moored to LST 218 to finish taking on supplies.

Dec. 30,

Moved away from LST 218 and anchored in harbor.

1946

January 8,

Left Yokohama this morning at 0730, our destination this time is [illegible] which is about 500 miles from Yokohama.

Jan. 11,

Arrived at [illegible] early this morning and anchored. Got underway again this afternoon and beached to load up.

Jan. 12,

Retracted from beach this morning and got underway for Wakayama.

Jan. 13,

Arrived at Wakayama at 1300 this afternoon and anchored. Got underway again 1500 and beached ship to unload equipment.

- End of Report -